Lab to land programme in Rajasthan

*463. SHRI AIMADUDD1N AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken so far, to implement the Lab to Land programme in Rajasthan;

(b) what benefits have accrued so far therefrom to the farmers of that State; and

(c) what further steps are being taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Lab to Land Programme (LLP) was implemented from 1979-91 upto the end of Seventh Plan by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through the existing network of institutes under ICAR, Sukhadia University, and also Non-Govemmental Organizations. As the programme was focussed primarily on transfer of new technologies and improving of farming systems, 13787 farm families from Rajasthan were adopted under this programme.

(b) The benefits accrued from LLP to the farmers were adoption of latest production technologies for sorghum, wheat, rabi maize, oilseeds and pulses; intercropping of maize pigeonpea/cowpea/greengram/blackgram, cottonpulses, and sorghumGreengram; planting of tree saplings and grass species for checking wind erosion and sand-dune stabilization; and improvement of local sheep.

(c) The programme has not found place in the subsequent Plans. However the objectives of the programme were integrated with the ongoing programme of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK).

Cattle Insurance in Karnataka

*464. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) wheather it is a fact that Cattle Insurance Scheme was launched as a pilot project in eight districts of Karnataka, in the year 2000;

(b) if so, the number of the cattle insured and the persons benefited;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the scheme in the entire State; and

(d) if so, what would be the share of Karnataka Government?